

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. Location

- a. The factory is at Soroksári Street 158, Budapest. Before nationalization, it was the Frommer Arms & Machine Works.
- b. The plant covers an area of 800 by 500 meters. The railway siding connects with the Budapest standard gauge local lines, and via these with the MAV Danube freight station (Dunaparti Teher), in Budapest.

2. Supervision

The plant is supervised by the Ministry of Defense in regard to the production of arms, and by the Ministry of Foundry and Machine Industry which has the overall responsibility for the production of machine tools.

3. Security

- a. The factory is surrounded by a wall of concrete slabs 2.5 meters high. The entrances, including the point where the rail line enters, are guarded continuously. The guard numbers about 50 men and is under the supervision of the AVH.
- b. The employees have to show their passes when entering and leaving the plant. The passes are bound in blue covers with a red diagonal and a red star in the center. Inside are the picture, the signature and the personal description of the holder. The passes issued in the spring of 1952 were recently replaced by new ones. Access to the laboratory is permitted only to employees having passes bound in brown. The passes also bear a number, which is recorded with the Party secretary.

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SECRET

- 2 -

c. The laboratory has a permanent guard of two men. The director is Major Imre Kucher from the Military Institute. He directs the experiments, and also the manufacture of the experimental weapons.

4. Personnel

- a. About 3,000 Hungarian and 300 Greek workers are employed. About 40 percent of the Hungarians are women, and there are 60 Greek women workers. Skilled workers number about 1,500. There are about 300 officials, engineers, etc. The Greeks are all extreme Communists. They are quartered in barracks not far from the factory. There are three work shifts, which go on at 7 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. Only the 7 a.m. shift is of full strength.
- b. The plant director is Marton Köröndi, who was a lathe operator at the machine-tool works in Csepel, has taken a technological course, is clear headed, knows how to get along with people, and is well liked. The Party secretary is Géza Lakatos, a Russian-trained Communist, a Jew who speaks poor Hungarian. He is harsh and unsocial, and is hated. The technical director Balint Soos, was formerly a skilled workman in the plant. The head of the construction division, Chief Engineer Imre Medlitz, was formerly very popular until he went to Russia in 1951 for a training course. He came back an extreme Communist and a slave driver. Simon Horváth, the trade union director, has no influence. The personnel director István Mihajlovics, is little known. His office is at the general offices in Nádor Street.

5. Production

- a. The plant produces 7.62 mm. machine pistols, model M.48 (drumfed) and M.50 (with ammunition clip), holding 71 and 30 rounds respectively. These pistols kicked when fired vertically, but this has been stopped or lessened by a change in the breechblock mechanism. Production is about 3,000 pieces monthly.
- b. The Tokarev M.50 semi-automatic rifle, 7.62 mm, is capable of either single or continuous fire. The ammunition clip holds 20 rounds. About 100 of these weapons were produced monthly in 1952; assembly line production was planned for 1953, that is 2,000 pieces a month. About 2,000 pieces per month were produced in 1952, of the 7.62 mm, eight-shot, M-50 semi-automatic machine pistol.
- c. About 100 assault carbines are produced a month. This weapon is similar to the German M.44 assault rifle. It is 7.62mm, model M.51, with a semi-circular clip holding 25 shells, weighs 3.8 Kg., has a muzzle velocity of 850 meters per second, and will penetrate a steel helmet at 1,000 meters. The theoretical firing rate is 750 shots per minute (sic). Preparations are being made for assembly line production.
- d. Percussion fuses are manufactured for 37 mm. and 85 mm. antiaircraft guns, and 122 mm. and 162 mm. howitzers. Fifty to 60 tons are shipped weekly by trucks.
- e. The machine tool workshops manufacture universal drills, turning lathes, planing lathes, milling machines, grinding machines, eccentric presses, and the like. The production amounts to 200 pieces of the various machines per month. Fifty percent are exported to the Soviet Union via Zahony, and about 20 percent are exported to Bulgaria and Rumania; the rest remain in Hungary.

6. Raw Material Supply

Steel rods and plates are delivered from Diósgyör and are also imported from the Soviet Union. Copper, brass, and lead come from the Soviet Union. Coil springs come from the Budapest National Spring Works (Rugógyár N.V.), on Fehérvári Street; diamond steel and special steel from Sweden; wood for the rifle butts from Hungary and Rumania; coal from Tata; coke from the gasworks in Obuda and from Poland. Power is supplied by overhead lines from the municipal power system, and converted by transformers in the factory.

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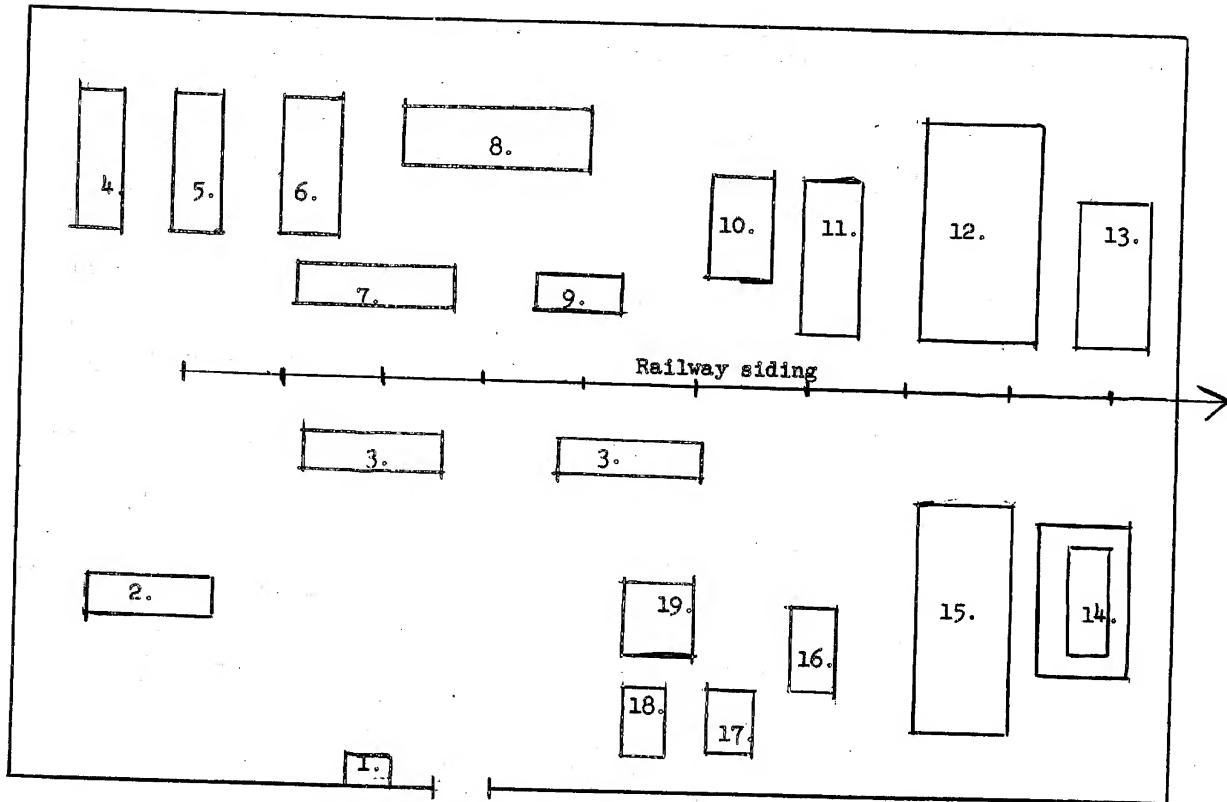
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- 3 -

THE METAL PRODUCTS AND MACHINE TOOL FACTORY, BUDAPEST



158 Soroksári Street

1. Gatekeeper
2. Party Secretariat
Plant Committee (1)
3. Factory Director (2)
Technical bureaus
4. Arms workshops under construction, five story.
5. " " "
6. " " " "
7. Electric welding shop (1)
8. Underground shooting gallery, 100 meters long
9. Rifle factory (2)
10. Raw material storehouse
11. Smithy
12. Machine tool factory and final assembly
13. Foundry
14. Laboratory, enclosed with barbed wire
15. Machinery hall, about 100 x 30 meters
16. Arms workshops
17. " "
18. Kitchen, mess hall, cinema, culture hall
19. Fitter's shop

Note: The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of stories.

Production of the plant will be increased 100 percent in 1953 by the new buildings, Nos. 4, 5, and 6.

25X1

SECRET